

HM #15: "The Monster Within"
Written By: Larry DiTillio (SE: DS)
Third+FINAL+RECORD Draft 5/3/02

ACT ONE

Main Title

Adam

I am Adam, Prince of Eternia. Defender of the
secrets of Castle Grayskull.

This is Cringer, my fearless friend. Fabulouss..

He-Man

I have the power...

FADE IN:

EXT. - ANCIENT RUINS OF A CITY - DAY

WIDE - MAA (in full armor) & a low flying BUZZ-OFF race
across a plaza in the ruins of an old, unpopulated city as
multiple BLASTS fly around them. They jump behind a low
wall.

TIGHT - MAA & BUZZ-OFF - behind the wall. BLASTS shoot in
around them.

MAN-AT-ARMS

(above the din) Seems we're not the
only ones after the Emerald of
Orkas Island.

WIDER - They rise up, return fire, then duck down quickly as
more blasts smash down at them. The blasts come from:

THE ROOF OF A ONE-STORY RUIN - maybe 30 yards away. MERMAN
fires TRIDENT BLASTS, TRAPJAW fires his arm cannon & TRI-
KLOPS fires gamma beams.

ANGLE - MAN-E-FACES - rushes in & settles behind a partially
ruined building catty-corner from where MAA & Buzz-Off are
pinned down.

CLOSE - MAN-E-FACES - he pivots to MONSTER face...and
prepares to enter the fray...

MAN-E-FACES (MONSTER)

Nobody messes with my friends!

BEASTMAN (OS)
Going somewhere monster boy?

PULL BACK as Man-E-Monster turns to see BEASTMAN; whip in hand. Man-E GROWLS.

MAN-E-MONSTER
Yeah, right through you!

BEASTMAN cracks his whip & Man E Monster stops -- confused. A big smile crosses Beastman's face.

BEASTMAN
<animal CHUCKLES>

Man-E Monster holds his head as if trying to clear it and speaks with difficulty.

MAN-E-FACE <MONSTER>
What's...happenin' to me?

BEASTMAN
You're part beast, right? That means I can control ya. (pleased)
Shoulda tried this a long time ago.

ON MAA, BUZZ-OFF - They are still trading barrages with the bad guys when Man-At-Arms looks and sees: RACK FOCUS TO MAN E - lowering his head subserviently before a gloating Beastman.

MAN-AT-ARMS
Man-E's in some kind of trouble.
Help him, I'll cover you!

Buzz-Off takes off, as MAA fires wildly at OS warriors.

BEASTMAN looks UP, sees: BUZZ-OFF flying towards them, stinger lance raised.

BEASTMAN turns to Man-E.

BEASTMAN
Take him out.

Buzz-Off soars in, hovers beside Man-E, sees the odd look on his face. He turns & aims his Stinger at a gloating Beastman.

Buzz Off
Ugh!

Beastman

Laugh

MAN-E SWATS him...and CAMERA FOLLOWS as Buzz-Off lands, dazed on the ground of the plaza, in the middle of the crossfire.

MAA reacts in alarm, then CAMERA FOLLOWS as he races out towards the downed Buzz-Off.

FROM HIS PERCH - TRI-KLOPS' eye ring spins into place and he FIRES a gamma beam DOWN and OS.

ON MAA - he's almost reached Buzz Off when he's hit by the blast...and hits the ground, dazed.

BEASTMAN seeing this, CHUCKLES. EVIL-LYN leaps down from slightly higher perch and lands beside him. BEASTMAN proudly indicates MAN E MONSTER -- who looks confused and cowered.

BEASTMAN

Chuckles!

EVIL-LYN

(incredulous)

You actually had a good idea.

HERO SHOT - HE-MAN, atop a ruined pillar above them.

HE-MAN

I have a better one.

HE-MAN dives off the pillar, FOLLOW as he SOMERSAULTS, LANDS between Beastman and Evil-Lyn.

HE-MAN

The two of you, locked up in the palace dungeon.

Evil-Lyn immediately FIRES a blast from her staff at him. He- Man parries the blast....and sends it back, STRIKING Evil-Lyn and sending her reeling OS.

BEASTMAN CRACKS his WHIP and MAN E MONSTER charges He-Man, CLUB raised. He-Man, taken by surprise, instinctively SIDE-STEPS/EVADES...and MAN E ends up WHOMPING BEASTMAN.

... who staggers backwards...and LANDS hard, dazed.

MAN-E-MONSTER - His eyes lose the blank look. He is confused and upset, as he switches back to HUMAN face. HE-MAN steps in and pats him on the shoulder.

HE-MAN
Are you alright?

MAN-E-FACES
(confused) I don, I don't -- What
have I done?

THE RUINS - MERMAN peeks over the roof perch he's on to see:

MERMAN POV - HE-MAN with MAN-E...even as He-Man turns and looks towards CAMERA, then starts racing towards them.

MERMAN (OS)
We've got a He-Man problem!

TRIKLOPS - rising up beside Merman & Trapjaw -- eye-blaster pivoting into a new setting.

TRI-KLOPS
(nasty smirk) And I've got the
solution.

TRIKLOPS - begins FIRING downwards.

TRACK WITH HE-MAN - as he FLIPS thru the blasts like an Olympic gymnast, darting behind a half-demolished building NEAR the one the evil warriors are on.

CLOSER- He-Man looks around, sees: ADJUST TO - a fallen column resting on a pile of debris like a seesaw.

He-Man rushes to the column, picks up a huge block of stone & stands on the end that's touching the ground. He lobs the stone onto the other end and is LAUNCHED into the air...

THE ROOF OF THE ONE STORY RUIN - Trapjaw, Merman and Triklops are looking down and around, trying to find He-Man.

He-Man flies up in the air, behind them, reaches his apex, then ADJUSTS his trajectory, so he flies in like a human cannonball; caroms thru the Warriors -- sending them FLYING off the roof.

TRAPJAW/TRI-KLOPS/MERMAN
<surprised, PAINED CRIES>

LOW ANGLE - As TRAPJAW, MERMAN & TRIKLOPS hit the ground...BEASTMAN & EVIL-LYN come flying in on a Griffin.

Beastman and the Griffin reach down, grab the 3 dazed warriors & fly off with them.

HE-MAN - sees the Griffin race off with the Evil Warriors -- airborne and out of his reach.

CUT TO: MAA and Buzz-Off being helped up by Man E Faces, as He-Man rushes in.

HE-MAN
Everyone alright?

MAN-AT-ARMS
Yes. But they made off with the Emerald.

He-Man reaches into his belt and extracts a glowing, green, glass-like 5 inch emerald, holds it up. MAA smiles.

MAN E - looks troubled and pained by what he's been thru.

EXT. SNAKE MOUNTAIN - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

PUSH IN on the sinister-looking mountain, as we HEAR:

SKELETOR (VO)
Incompetent morons --

INT. SNAKE MOUNTAIN - THRONE ROOM - CONT.

SKELETOR angrily rails at his minions.

SKELETOR
The Emerald of Orkas Island would have allowed me to unleash an unstoppable assault upon Castle Grayskull!

TRAPJAW - shrugs defensively. <NOTE: Merman is not here.>

TRAPJAW
If He-Man hadn't shown up --

SKELETOR
(cutting him off)
He-Man *always* shows up, you fool!
And it's obvious none of you are capable of eliminating him.

CLOSE ON SKELETOR - seething.

SKELETOR
It's time to find someone who can.

WARRIORS exchange glances, wondering what he means.

SKELETOR paces, musing.

SKELETOR (CONT'D)

What I need are specialists -
creatures who are ruthless, cunning
and expert at destruction.

(stops, brainstorm)

Bounty hunters!

EVIL WARRIORS exchange nervous looks, but Whiplash --
sucking up to Skeletor - eagerly steps forward.

WHIPLASH

I know two who'd be perfect. Either
one could take on He-Man. One guy's
named---

SKELETOR

(cuts him off) Bring them!

WHIPLASH

Uh, both of them?

SKELETOR heads back to this throne and takes a seat.

SKELETOR

Yes. We'll see which of them is
better suited to the destruction of
He-Man. (push in) Now go...All of
you. You disgust me.

EVIL WARRIORS start to head out. All except for Whiplash,
who stays behind with Skeletor, shaking his head with
disgust -- trying to "bond" with, and mirror Skel's
attitude.

Whiplash

<Digust sound> Ugh!

SKELETOR glares at him & a cowered Whipash hurries out,
after the others.

WIPE TO:

INT. A CORRIDOR IN SNAKE MOUNTAIN - NEXT DAY

WHIPLASH walks down a corridor -- as WE WIDEN TO REVEAL -
he's flanked by TUVAR & BADDHRA, the Bounty Hunters. <TUVAR
is nimble, cunning, ninja-like and has techno gizmos,
Baddhra is reptilian, barbaric and monosyllabic -- bow-

legged, walks in beastlike stomping manner.> The tension between the Hunters is palpable; they glare at each other. It seems without Whiplash between them, they would come to blows.

TUVAR
(seething) You never said that
scaly cretin would be here.

BADDHRA
(seething) If you say this weakling
coming, I no be here.

ANOTHER ANGLE - Tuvar STOPS, SCOWLS, turns menacingly toward Baddhra, pulling out a short sword with an ornate multi-tipped blade...as Whiplash continues on.

TUVAR
Call me that again and I'll make a
belt from your hide.

Baddhra draws a club and faces him,
snarling.

BADDHRA
You try - WEAKLING!

OTS WHIPLASH - He stops at the closed throne room door,
looks back.

WHIPLASH
We're here.

Whiplash opens the door -- they put away their weapons, but still glare at each other, as he ushers them into:

INT. THRONE ROOM, SNAKE MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

SKELETOR sits at his throne, PANTHOR beside him. He's flanked by Evil-Lyn, Tri-Klops, Beastman and Trapjaw.

ENTERING - Whiplash leading the bounty hunters in, makes introductions. CAMERA ON each Bounty Hunter as intros them:

WHIPLASH
Skeletor, this is Tuvar...and
Baddhra. (comically polite) Tuvar,
Baddhra, may I introduce--

WHOMP! - Whiplash gets BLASTED back by a Havoc Staff blast. ADJUST TO SKELETOR - eyes blazing, then climbs off his throne, crosses to the Bounty Hunters & sizes them up.

SKELETOR
So, you believe you have the skills
to take on He-Man?

TIGHT - TUVAR, BADDHRA - each are smug. In b.g., a dazed Whiplash gets up off the ground.

I do. TUVAR

BADDHRA
(hiss-grunt of assent)
I take on anyone. For right price.

FAVOR TRAPJAW - gathered with the other Warriors.

TRAPJAW/EVIL-LYN, TRIKLOPS, BEASTMAN
Big talkers./<ad-lib derisive
WALLAS of agreement>

BADDHRA - Baddhra HISSES angrily, Tuvar just smiles.

```
<<<***OPTIONAL: CAN CUT FOR TIME, FROM HERE, TO WHERE SKEL  
SAYS" "YOU ARE BOTH HIRED"*** HOWEVER, If WE WANT TO SHOW  
DEMO OF BOUNTY HUNTERS'S PROWESS, THEN PERHAPS INSERT A  
QUICK BATTLE BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM, IN WHICH CASE, WE'D  
KEEP SKEL'S NEXT TWO DIALOG LINES. "they have a point. let's  
see...deliver the goods", as well as his line "a most  
impressive display" after their demo.>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
```

ON SKELETOR, EVIL WARRIORS nearby. He's enjoying this.

SKELETOR
Let's see if you two can deliver
the goods. (commands) Beastman...
Trapjaw.

Skeletor gestures, as Beastman and Trapjaw, with eager relishing looks, come towards the Bounty Hunters.

WIDE - Tuvar and Baddhra step away from each other.

BEASTMAN stands opposite Baddhra, Trapjaw stands opposite Tugar.

SKELETOR, takes his place back on his throne, where he's flanked by WHIPLASH.

SKELETOR
Commence!

Tuvar

Ahhh !

TRAPJAW charges TUVAR....who coolly raises both hands, palms outwards. REVEAL two mirror-like devices on his palms. He smiles as the devices suddenly emit a BLINDING FLASH!

WIDER - Trapjaw grabs his eyes, blinded, as Tuvar LEAPS UP; delivers a spinning wheel-kick which smashes Trapjaw OS.

BEASTMAN charges Baddhra who LEAPS up, KICKS him in the chest with both legs, BACK FLIPS to a landing as Beastman FLIES OS.

Beastman smashes into a wall <or smashes into a stalactite.>

BEASTMAN
<impact GRUNTS>

SKELETOR gestures...and EVIL-LYN and TRIKLOPS move past camera -- nasty, scowling looks on their faces.

EVIL-LYN
With pleasure.

SKELETOR watches the OS action. SOUNDS OF BATTLE. Whiplash shoots toadying smiles at him.

CUT TO: SECONDS LATER - WIDE - PAN - Beastman, TrapJaw, Evil-Lyn and Tri-klops all lie dazed on the floor.

OTS BOUNTY HUNTERS approaching Skeletor -- who is delighted. Whiplash smiles toady-like at him.

SKELETOR
A most impressive display.
<<<<<<<*END OF OPTIONAL CUT***>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>**
You are *both* hired. Working
together you're certain to destroy
He-Man.

TUVAR, BADDHRA - They sneer with contempt at each other.

TUVAR
Work with him? Never!

BADDHRA
Bah. Baddhra rather eat dirt than--

A SKELETOR BLAST shoots between the two -- and they're HURLED BACKWARDS...to land OS HARD on the floor.

TUVAR/BADDHRA (PARTIAL OS)
<surprised CRIES, impact GRUNTS>

LOW ANGLE - TUVAR, BADDHRA - They don't know what hit them. Then TILT UP and PUSH IN to Skeletor in his throne. Frightening as he looks down at them.

SKELETOR
You *will* work together and you *will*
terminate He-Man.

CLOSER - SKELETOR - he goes from "pleasant" to sinister.

SKELETOR
("pleasant") Succeed and you'll be
amply rewarded. (eyes glow,
sinister) Fail and the consequences
will be... *unpleasant*.

WIDER - Skeletor's defeated minions come limping towards his throne, leering at the bounty hunters. **<NOTE: LOSE THE DEFEATED, LIMPING STUFF IF WE MAKE THE AFOREMENTIONED CUT.>**

BEASTMAN
YA that's right, so ya better--

SKELETOR shoots a contemptuous look at BEASTMAN et al.

SKELETOR (CONT'D)
(cuts him off, contemptuous) Out of
my sight, all of you. My new
warriors and I have business to
discuss.

FAVOR the chastised, derided Evil Warriors departing, glaring at the Bounty Hunters as they go -- like jealous siblings.

WHIPLASH stands beside Skeletor, as if they're buddies. Skel gets Whiplash in his glare & cowered Whiplash heads out also.

EXT. CORRIDOR IN SNAKE MOUNTAIN - CONT.

The Evil Warriors exit to corridor outside the throne room. Tri-klops berates Whiplash, who follows them out.

TRIKLOPS
Nice going, scales-for-brains. If
those "friends" of yours defeat He-
Man, Skeletor might replace all of
us.

WHIPLASH - smiles slyly.

WHIPLASH

All of *you*, maybe. I'll get a promotion.

Beastman

Walla - grunts

BEASTMAN angrily lifts WHIPLASH & hurls him OS, as we hear an OS CRASH.

ON TRAPJAW - concerned.

TRAPJAW
We gotta stop those creeps.

EVIL-LYN (OS)
No.

All look at EVIL-LYN, puzzled. PUSH IN ON EVIL-LYN - scheming, devious.

EVIL-LYN
(sly) *Let* them defeat He-Man. Then we come in, finish them off and take the credit for ourselves.

PAN THE EVIL WARRIORS - who smile and nod in agreement.

CUT TO:

EXT. - COURTYARD OF THE ROYAL PALACE - DAY

RAM-MAN enters to join MEKANEK, MAN-E-FACES and BUZZ-OFF who wait in the courtyard.

RAM MAN
So what's this meeting all about?

MEKANEK
(shrugs) I've heard there's a monster attacking tradesmen in the Tar Swamp.

Ram Man looks surprised. Buzz-Off smiles and makes a joke.

BUZZ-OFF
Maybe it was just Man-E-Faces out for a stroll.

MEKANEK/BUZZ-OFF/RAM-MAN
<laughter>

TIGHT - MAN-E-FACES reacts upset and defensive.

MAN-E-FACES

I'm an actor. The monster is just a
role. (troubled) One I never care
to play again.

MAN E turns away from them. They exchange glances of
CONCERN.

BUZZ-OFF

Hey Sorry, Man-E. I was just
joking.

ANGLE - TEELA heads into the Courtyard, sees ADAM darting
past and OS, REACTS puzzled, then continues on her way.

TEELA

(calls) Adam, aren't you-- (frowns,
to self) I guess not.

INTERCUT: AROUND A BEND - unseen by others, Adam whips out
his POWER SWORD and intones:

ADAM/HE-MAN

By the power of Grayskull/I have
the power!

BACK ON COURTYARD - MAA enters & addresses the Masters.

MAN-AT-ARMS

King Randor has ordered that the
Emerald of Orkas Island be sent to
the Sands of Fire and destroyed.
The Masters will act as
escorts...all except for Man-E-
Faces.

MAN E looks puzzled. HE-MAN comes strolling in, crosses to
Man E and clamps a hand on his shoulder.

HE-MAN (CONT'D)

You and I will investigate these
rumors of a monster in the Tar
Swamp.

CLOSE ON MAN E - he looks troubled, but knows his duty.

MAN E FACES

Right.

WIPE TO:

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF THE TAR SWAMP - DAY

WIDE DOWN ANGLE - thru the branches of twisted trees, we see HE-MAN and MAN E enter the SWAMP area. ADJUST ANGLE TO MAN E & HE-MAN moving past thick undergrowth. A creepy-looking place. Nearby is a large rock. Beyond that, the TAR SWAMP.

HE-MAN
Seems quiet enough. Perhaps those
rumors were--

Even as he says it, a LOUD, MONSTROUS NOISE (like a dinosaur's bellow) comes from the Swamp.

HE-MAN (CONT'D)
(rueful) --uh, true. (turns to Man
E) Can you locate the source?

MAN E switches to ROBOT FACE. TRACK HE-MAN & MAN E as they approach the perimeter of the swamp, which is all gaseous, misty and shadowy -- shrouded by "hanging-down" tree growth.

POV - MAN-E-ROBOT - A spiffy computer display shows the swamp as a series of abstract graphics. Read-outs scroll on one side of the screen. A FLASHING BLIP pinpoints the sound.

MAN-E-ROBOT (VO)
I-detect-the-location-of-the-
sounds-but-no-corresponding
physical-presence.

HE-MAN
(arches puzzled eyebrow) Let's
split up, see what we can find.

MAN-E-ROBOT nods. WIDEN - They move out, entering the perimeter of the swamp at two different points. (i.e. HE-MAN goes left, Man E goes right.) They disappear into the thick trees as the OS MONSTER SOUNDS grow louder ahead of them.

ANGLE ON LARGE ROCK - it SHIMMERS & Tuvor steps out from the shimmer (he'd been camouflaged) a HOLO-PROJECTOR in his hand. He switches it off & the shimmer disappears. He smiles at OS.

TUVOR
Like taking candy from a baby...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. TAR SWAMP - CONTINUOUS

MAN-E ROBOT moves thru the Swamp, head pivoting as he SCANS. MONSTROUS SOUNDS are heard OS. He stops suddenly.

MAN E sneaks up to bushes lining a clearing. Peeks thru them.

MAN E ROBOT POV - Baddhra SWINGS 2 long thin lines over his head: at the end of one is a METALLIC TUBE with strange markings; on the end of the other a hollow coconut-like ball. <when twirled in tandem they produce the MONSTER sounds.>

BADDHRA stops, SNIFFS the air, eyes narrowing, smiles slyly.

Baddhra

<Sniffing sound>

WIDER - Baddhra DROPS the sound producing device, reaches for his club as Man-E steps out into the open. Baddhra's surprised, Man E is puzzled.

BADDHRA
You not He-Man.

MAN-E-FACES <ROBOT>
And-you-are-not-a-monster. Why-are
you-imitating-one?

Baddhra acrobatically LEAPS at him, SWINGING his club -- GROWLING...and MAN E gets WHOMPED in the chest....SLAMS back into a tree.

MAN-E-FACES <ROBOT>
Uhhhh!!!

Man-E barely has the wind left to LEAP CLEAR as Baddhra SWINGS again. The blow takes a chunk out of the tree. WHACK!

MAN-E-ROBOT has landed, dazed on the ground. He switches to human face and eyes widen as he sees...

REVERSE - BADDHRA coming at him, club high over his head, bringing it DOWN hard...

TIGHT - MAN-E-FACES throws his hands up to shield his head, but the flat of a sword enters frame, BLOCKS the club.

WIDEN TO REVEAL - HE-MAN -- it's his sword. He PUSHES against the club, driving Baddhra away from Man-E.

CLOSE - HE-MAN, BADDHRA - Weapons locked, they are nose to nose in a classic clinch.

BADDHRA
(relishing) He-Man!

He-Man SHOVES hard & Baddhra FLIES OS...& we hear him land hard OS.

BADDHRA (PARTIAL OS)
Whaaa---Oooofff!

MAN-E-FACES - still on his back, as He-Man helps him up.

HE-MAN
You alright?

MAN-E-FACES
A little sore, but-(sees OS) Look out!

Baddhra FLIPS INTO SHOT, club swinging. He-Man athletically LEAPS over the swing...and winds up behind Baddhra.

BADDHRA spins around, club swinging. He-Man deftly parries, cutting Baddhra's club down to a stump with one mighty swing.

ON BADDHRA - He steps back, scowling, FLINGS the stump OS.

BADDHRA
<angry SNARL>

OTS BADDHRA- He DARTS away, into the thick foliage and OS.

MAN-E-FACES - examining the "monster-sound-producing device"

MAN-E-FACES
Our "monster."

He-Man nods.

HE-MAN
Meant as a lure. But why?

NEARBY - A Doomseeker rises up unseen; turns its lens OS.

CUT TO:

EXT. ADJACENT AREA, NEAR THE TAR SWAMP - CONT.

The Evil Warriors are gathered around a Doomseeker Screen, which is projecting a view of He-Man and Man-E.

EVIL-LYN
First round goes to He-Man.

BEASTMAN
(slyly) He's got my little pet with
him. That could come in handy.

EXT. TAR SWAMP - CONTINUOUS

MOVING - MAN-E ROBOT scans the swamp for Baddhra.

INCLUDE HE-MAN - who looks out, scanning with his naked eyes, then they REACT to OS LAUGHTER and look up at the trees.

TUVAR (VO)
<WICKED LAUGHTER>

HE-MAN, MAN-E-FACES - UPWARD POV -- A PAN across the trees shows nothing, even as the OS LAUGHTER continues.

BACK TO HE-MAN, MAN-E-FACES - They look all around, as the laughter STOPS. As they turn their backs on a large tree --

IN A SWAMP TREE - There is a SHIMMER and HIGH up in the tree, what seems to be part of the tree trunk becomes Tuvar. He's SHIMMERING - and wears a purple cloth mask over nose and mouth (like a ninja) and a hi-tech visor over his eyes and holds a holo-projector in his hand. He switches it off. The shimmer disappears. He puts it away; produces a SMALL GLASS GLOBE, filled with swirling purple gas. He steps out on a thick limb, looks down.

OTS TUVAR - DOWNWARD ANGLE - He FLINGS the globe downwards, at HE-MAN and MAN-E-FACES whose backs are to Tuvar. The glass globe SMASHES at their feet, ENVELOPS them in PURPLE FOG.

ON FOG - we hear He-Man and Man E coughing from within.

HE MAN, MAN E
<coughing>

TUVAR - brandishing a short metal ROD, he DIVES off the tree branch and into the purple fog/cloud.

"INT." PURPLE CLOUD - CONT.

He-Man rubs his eyes, tries to see anything in the thick purple fog around him. There is a shadowy flicker of movement to one side...He looks.

HE-MAN
Man-E?

TIGHT ON HE-MAN - as a short rod, Tuvar's weapon <NOTE: should be fantastical, odd shaped, with Eternian markings, NOT resembling a cattle prod>, slices into frame & delivers an ELECTRICAL CHARGE that ZAPS He-Man & nearly doubles him over.

HE-MAN
<pained GRUNT>

HE-MAN - pained and nearly doubled over, TWIRLS and SWINGS his sword in wide arcs, hoping to hit something.

ANOTHER ANGLE - As He-Man stops, Tuvar zips in behind He-Man, ZAPS him again.

ELSEWHERE IN THE CLOUD - Man-E tries to see thru the fog hears:

HE-MAN (OS)
<pained Grunt>

MAN E switches to ROBOT Face, his eyes emitting twin SEARCH LIGHT BEAMS as he SCANS the area.

TIGHT - HE-MAN - He takes another ZAP from the rod, this one drops him to his knees.

As he struggles to rise, Tuvar appears behind him, smirking.

TUVAR
Easiest bounty I've ever earned!

TUVAR hits a switch and the ROD CRACKLES, more ominously. He prepares to attack He-Man with it, when...SEARCHLIGHT BEAMS suddenly illuminate him and He-Man. Tuvar REACTS surprised, then looks & is blinded by the bright light as:

MAN-E-ROBOT lifts his blaster, FIRES.

ON TUVAR - the weapon is BLASTED out of his hands.

Tuvar quickly LEAPS straight up as another shot from Man-E narrowly misses him.

WIDE - THE TOP OF THE GAS CLOUD - Tuvar FLIPS UP and onto a branch of a tree...as ANOTHER BLAST shoots out of the cloud (from OS Man E Robot) severing the branch. Then ADJUST ANGLE as Tuvar flees, leaping from tree to nearby tree.

ON THE GAS CLOUD - Man-E-Robot helps He-Man out of the cloud. He-Man is still a bit pained and coughing.

HE-MAN
<cough> Thanks for the assist, Man
E.

Man-E switches to HUMAN face.

MAN-E-FACES
Who are these guys?

He-MAN gazes off, setting his jaw.

HE-MAN
Bounty hunters. And I've a pretty
good idea who hired them.

MAN E nods grimly.

MAN-E-FACES
They're good. Completely fooled my
robot sensors.

HE-MAN nods, eyes MAN E meaningfully.

HE-MAN
Man-E-Monster could pick up their
scent.

Man-E looks away, troubled.

MAN-E-FACES
Sorry. He-- I...dont play that role
anymore. Not after what Beastman--

Suddenly they hear OS SOUNDS OF BUSHES rustling, twigs
crunching. Hard to pinpoint the direction. HE-MAN indicates
he'll head one way, as Man E indicates he'll head another.

HE-MAN heads off...then Man E pivots to robot face and races
OS in different direction.

A Doomseeker rises from hiding and follows Man E.

EXT. CLEARING, IN THE TAR SWAMP - CONT.

WIDE - Man-E-Robot charges into a semi-clearing surrounded
by tar pools, then HEARS OS RUSTLE OF BUSHES.

CLOSE - draws his blaster, charges forward over some brush.

WIDER - and FALLS through the top of a brush-covered PIT.
The SPLASH covers him with Tar.

MAN-E-FACES <ROBOT>

<surprised walla>

MAN-E-ROBOT'S robot eyes blink open through the tar.

A NASTY HISS-GROWL makes him turn.

POV - MAN-E-ROBOT - Two Feral Yellow EYES appear in a dark corner of the pit. A snarling SWAMP HOPPER (RAPTOR-LIKE CREATURE - see HM#6) appears, moves toward him.

MAN E ROBOT fires his Robot Blaster, but the creature ducks into the tar, evading the BLAST.

MAN E tries to reach the "banks" to escape the tar, but the creature rears up and blocks his escape.

EXT. TAR SWAMP - CONT.

HE-MAN comes racing through some bushes and hears two WHOOSHES. He whirls, SEES 2 war clubs HURTLING at him. <NOTE: This should all play as cool "Ninja Scroll" type action.> HE-MAN catches the first war club with his right hand, uses it to bat aside the 2nd war club -- WHACK!- which flies OS. He tosses the one he caught aside...and draws his sword. Looks around, calling to whomever:

HE-MAN
Okay, you've had your fun.

WIDER - BADDHRA rises up from some camouflaged ground. He has a WAR HAMMER & spins it artfully...backing up, luring He-Man toward a grove of trees, keeping distance between them.

BADDHRA
(sinister) No. Fun just beginning.

HE-MAN follows warily until Baddhra stops, raises his weapon high, beckons with a gesture of his war hammer.

TIGHT - He-Man moves in carefully, his focus on Baddhra.

INSERT - He-Man's feet hit a camouflaged tripwire.

HE-MAN hears a BIG WHOOSH, turns just as a HUGE LOG on vines swings out from between two trees; hits him HARD in the torso, sending him flying OS.

HE-MAN
Ommmph!

CLOSE ON BADDHRA - He is jubilant.

BADDHRA
<reptilian chuckle>

EXT. TAR SWAMP, VINE AREA - CONT.

AN OVERGROWN SECTION OF SWAMP - It is a morass of TANGLE VINES, thick green things that quiver as He-Man smashes into frame and LANDS in the thick of them -- dazed. The vines immediately slither over him like thick, green snakes.

INSERT - A Doomseeker floats above, its lens points downward.

EXT. ADJACENT AREA, NEAR THE TAR SWAMP - CONT.

FAVOR EVIL-LYN, surrounded by the other Evil Warriors, watch a Doomseeker Screen -- He-Man's plight. She smiles slyly.

EVIL-LYN
Time for us to move in, boys.

EXT. TAR SWAMP, VINE AREA - CONT.

He-Man is dazed & weakened -- struggling, but unable to fight off the ever-thicker, ever more plentiful vines that slither and tighten all over him. Baddhra enters in f.g.

BADDHRA
<low triumphant chuckle> He-Man
bring Baddhra big reward.

He steps forward, raising his hammer, as we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. TAR SWAMP, VINE AREA - CONTINUOUS

DRAMATIC, OMINOUS ANGLE ON BADDHRA - as he closes in, about to strike the entangled He-Man with his battle hammer,

when...a CHAIN WHIPS in, wraps itself around his weapon & YANKS it out of his hands. He whirls.

BADDHRA
Wha--?! You!

REVEAL TUVAR - now sans face mask and visor - the chain swinging lazily and menacingly from his right hand.

TUVAR
That's *my* bounty you're playing with.

Baddhra coils to spring but Tuvar threateningly speeds up the whirling chain. WHOOSH! Baddhra stops, then says cautiously:

BADDHRA
Skeletor say work together. Be very angry if we not.
(with sly emphasis)
Maybe not pay *any* bounty.

TUVAR has a moment of doubt, lowering his chain, and his guard, for a second -- just enough time for...

TUVAR
Hmm, you may have a point th--

BADDHRA RACES IN -- and does a FLYING KICK, the chain flying from Tuvar's hand, as he gets whomped backwards.

Baddhra steps in, over the downed and dazed Tuvar -- gleefully victorious.

BADDHRA
Ha! You fall for that like rock in Ocean of Gnarl!

EXT. TAR PIT - CONTINUOUS

The Swamp Hopper is on Man-E-ROBOT'S back, HISSING and SNAPPING at him. Man-E, struggling, flails his robot arms...

MAN E FACES <ROBOT>
<struggling> Man-E-Monster-face-is-needed. No!-I-dare-not...

He finally gets a good grip and uses all his strength, tosses the Swamp Hopper off of him.

MAN E ROBOT makes a bee-line for the edge of the swamp, is about to climb out, when the Swamp Hopper leaps in and grabs him from the rear...with a MIGHTY GROWL!

THE SWAMP HOPPER pulls MAN E ROBOT down into the swamp.

A BEAT -- MAN E and SWAMP HOPPER are submerged -- we see signs of struggle. Then the churning stops. It looks like curtains for Man E, when...

MAN E MONSTER bursts up from the swamp, fierce & ROARING.

MAN-E-MONSTER
<Kong-sized ROAR!>

EXT. TAR SWAMP, PIT - CONT.

WIDE - The Bounty Hunters are still grappling, and throttling each other, when they REACT to the sound of...

MAN-E-FACES (VO)
<ANGRY GROWL>

CLOSE - THE BOUNTY HUNTERS - They turn, their eyes widen!

THEIR POV - MAN-E-MONSTER looms into view, tar covered, like the Creature from the Black Lagoon.

MAN-E-MONSTER
Where is He-Man?

Tuvar and Baddhra exchange a look, then rush at CAMERA.

TUVAR/BADDHRA
<battle cries!>

ANGLE - Man-E Monster does a cool acrobatic somersault in the air, coming out of his somersault just as they reach him -- so he WHOMPS them both -- one with each monster foot, sending them hurtling OS. As he lands we hear, OS CRASHES.

CLOSE - MAN-E-MONSTER - He very deliberately SNIFFS the air, searching for a scent. He reacts as he finds it; moves off like a bloodhound on a trail.

EXT. TAR SWAMP, VINE AREA - CONT.

He-Man is completely enveloped in the vines, weakened but struggling. Man-E-Monster hurries in from behind Camera.

MAN E FACES <MONSTER>
Hang on, He-Man. I'll --

BEASTMAN (OS)
Hold it!

WIDER - Man-E turns to see Beastman, flanked by Evil-Lyn.
Beastman cracks his whip.

BEASTMAN (CONT'D)
Obey, your Master!

MAN-E-MONSTER - tries to resist, puts hands to his head with
his internal struggle. In b.g. He-Man looks on worriedly.

MAN-E-FACES <MONSTER>
(struggling, then gives in)) No..I-
I-- Yes, I obey.

EXT. - TAR SWAMP - NEAR THE PIT

TIGHT - Tuvar and Baddhra slowly rise, dazed, then HEAR:

TRI-KLOPS/TRAPJAW(OS)
Remember us?

WIDEN to include Tri-Klops & TrapJaw. Tri-Klops FIRES a
gamma vision blast at Baddhra, TrapJaw a cannon shot at
Tuvar. The Bounty Hunters are BLASTED...

WIDE ...and sent flying into the pit.

EXT TAR SWAMP - CONT.

Man-E-Monster stands there awaiting orders, though obviously
fighting it...as a gloating Beastman stands by & He-Man
calls out from behind him.

BEASTMAN
And when I say jump, you say "how
high", ya got it?

MAN E nods, but reluctantly, struggling inside himself.

HE-MAN
You've got to fight it Man-E. The
monster's part of you. Beastman
can't control it.

MAN E MONSTER seems to have a flicker of understanding,
then.

MAN-E- FACES <MONSTER>
(struggling, confused) Right.
Beastman can't control--

...his voice suddenly goes dead, his eyes go blank.

MAN-E-FACES <MONSTER> (CONT'D)
No, I must serve Beastman.

Man-E turns to a gloating Beastman & Evil-Lyn like a zombie.
BEASTMAN cracks his whip.

BEASTMAN
Good. Now...destroy He-Man!

MAN-E-MONSTER nods- steps toward He-Man, raises his claws.

MAN-E-MONSTER
Yes. Must..destroy...He-Man

CLOSE - MAN-E-MONSTER - He comes forward; GROWLS
ferociously.

FROM BEHIND, OTS MAN-E-MONSTER - as he starts slashing
furiously, looking like he's ripping He-Man to shreds.

BEASTMAN, EVIL-LYN - smile wickedly, as TrapJaw and Tri-
Klops join them...to see the OS Man E Monster slashing at
He-Man. They look at each other and laugh, no longer
watching the OS.

BEASTMAN/EVIL-LYN/TRAPJAW/TRI-KLOPS
<LAUGHS, CACKLES, ETC.>

TRAPJAW
If I didnt see it, I wouldnt
believe it.

MAN-E-FACES <MONSTER> (OS)
Better take another look.

The Evil Warriors turn, REACT as they see:

MAN-E-MONSTER steps aside to reveal: He-Man is GONE. Where
he was is just a pile of slashed vines.

ON EVIL WARRIORS - They are shocked, confused.

EVIL-LYN
I thought he was under your
control.

BEASTMAN
He was...I mean he is...

ON MAN-E-MONSTER - He has a broad smile.

MAN-E-MONSTER
They call it "acting," hairball.
And I'm not takin' direction from
you or nobody else no more!

He points OS.

ON EVIL WARRIORS - They look OS, their eyes widen.

THEIR POV - HE-MAN is holding the swinging log trap above his head (it's still hanging from the trees) and HEAVES it in their direction.

ON WARRIORS - Like a giant trapeze the log SWINGS in and broadsides Evil-Lyn, Tri-Klops, and TrapJaw. Beastman manages to JUMP ASIDE, as the other three get WHOMPED and FLY OS.

EVIL-LYN/TEPAJAW/TRIKLOPS
<surprised, pained GRUNTS>

EXT. PIT - The 3 Evil Warriors FLY into frame & into the Pit.

EVIL-LYN/TRI-KLOPS//TRAPJAW
<ad lib cries of dismay>

BACK ON SCENE - BEASTMAN - rises, ROARS out gloatingly in He-Man's direction.

BEASTMAN
<gloating ROAR!>

He is tapped on the shoulder. WIDEN - Beastman turns & Man-E-steps in, LIFTS him like a sack of rice & PITCHES him OS.

EXT. PIT - The 3 evil warriors and the Bounty Hunters, now all tar-covered, look UP as they HEAR:

BEASTMAN (VO, CONT'D)
<ROOOOAR!>

SPLOOSH, Beastman drops head first into the tar beside them.

MAN E MONSTER (still covered with tar) and HE-MAN step to the edge of the Pit and look down. They smile.

HE-MAN
Nicely done, Man E. You had me
worried there for a minute.

ON MAN-E-MONSTER - He pivots to Human Face.

MAN-E-FACES <HUMAN FACE>
That's what great acting's all
about.
(vulnerable) And...thank you for
reminding me...
(switches to MONSTER FACE)
That I get to choose what roles I
play.

He indicates the Warriors & Bounty Hunters stuck in the tar.

MAN-E-FACES (MONSTER)
So whadda we do about them?

HE-MAN arches an eyebrow, smiles wryly ---<ALT: sees the
fierce SwampHopper coming towards the bad guys.>

HE-MAN
Let's let the Swamphopper handle
them. Skeletor can do the rest.>
<I suspect that the Swamphopper and
Skeletor will provide all the
"justice" they have coming.>

INT. SNAKE MOUNTAIN - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

OTS EVIL-LYN and TRIKLOPS - recounting something to Skeletor
- who sits on his throne. PANTHOR sits beside him.

EVIL-LYN
-- and they failed, dismally.

TRIKLOPS
They could've destroyed He-Man, but
they were too busy pounding on each
other.

SKELETOR looks past them to see:

Beastman holds a helpless, miserable Tuvar. TrapJaw holds a
beaten Baddhra. The Bounty Hunters glare at each other.

TUVAR
See what you've done, simpleton?!

BADDHRA
Shut big trap, backstabber!

SKELETOR (OS)
ENOUGH!

WIDE - They grow silent as Skeletor stalks towards them.

SKELETOR (CONT'D)
So, you refused to work together as
I commanded. Don't like each other,
hum? Well then - TOO BAD!

He brings the Havoc Staff to bear. Beastman and Trapjaw step
aside as he FIRES a blast of mystic energy.

ON TUVAR, BADDHRA - They cry out as the energy envelops
them.

TUVAR/BADDHRA
<pained cries>

As WARRIORS shield their eyes from os outpouring energy &
FX, PAN TO SKELETOR: energy FX reflecting and playing upon
his gleeful, malevolent face.

ON TUVAR and BADDHRA - as energy dissipates, WE REVEAL --
they have been FUSED TOGETHER -- sharing one body: Tuvar's
head on the right; Baddhra's on the left. They are now
"TOO-BAD". The two heads look at each other, aghast &
horrified, then go nose to nose and start arguing again:

TUVAR AND BADDHRA
<horrified gasps>

TUVAR
(steamed) This is all your fault-!

BADDHRA
(goes nose to nose) Shut big trap
before I shut trap for you--!

TUVAR & BADDHRA

<Walla> What ya gonna
hit me with ya one
arm!

As TUVAR & BADDHRA ad lib out, we PAN TO SKELETOR - whose
head rocks back & he revels in his hideous handiwork, as we

SKELETOR
<sinister cackles>

FADE OUT.

THE END

HM #15: "The Monster Within"

MORAL TAG

EXT. PALACE COURTYARD- DAY

BUZZOFF and MAN E MONSTER are finishing a game of chess.
BUZZOFF makes his last move, then gets up and walks off.

BUZZ OFF
(smiles) Looks like I win.

MAN E MONSTER growls angrily at Buzz Off as he heads off.

MAN E FACES <MONSTER>
Arrrgh!

MAN E pivots to human face, addresses CAMERA.

MAN E FACES
Guess there's a little bit of the
monster in all of us. (shrugs) We
all get angry, jealous...sometimes
feel like saying mean things.

He pivots to Robot face.

MAN E FACES <ROBOT>
It-is-all-part-of-being-human.

He pivots to human face.

MAN E FACES
But just remember that we alone are
responsible for our own actions.

He pivots to Monster Face, calls OS.

MAN E FACES <MONSTER>
Hey, how 'bout a rematch?! (to
CAMERA) Until next time...

FADE OUT.